## **BEFORE**

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2001-485-W/S - ORDER NO. 2002-35

JANUARY 17, 2002

IN RE:	Rule to Show Cause Request on Submeterers	)	ORDER DENYING RECONSIDERATION AND/OR
		,	CLARIFICATION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Water Systems, Incorporated (Water Systems or the Company) for Reconsideration and/or Clarification of Order No. 2001-1142. Water Systems notes that it is the only submetering company with the technology to disconnect water in South Carolina, and that it has only one property in South Carolina with this feature. Therefore, the Company asks that this Commission modify its Order so as to allow, during the resolution of this submetering matter, the use of the Company's disconnection ability at the one property. Further, Water Systems requests clarification of the "any other adverse action" language in the Order. Water Systems asks that it be allowed to charge late fees for delinquent accounts, charge NSF fees for bad checks, and lien properties for unpaid water bills. The Company states that these are normal business practices, and that delinquencies will grow without employment of these practices.

We deny reconsideration and/ or clarification. The intent of Order No. 2001-1142 was clear. We held that no submeterer would be allowed to disconnect water or wastewater service or take any other adverse action against customers/tenants connected

with the submetering of water or wasterwater pending resolution of this submetering

matter by this Commission. Accordingly, we hold that Water Systems may not use its

technology to disconnect such customers/tenants. Also, we do believe that the other

potential actions described are indeed "adverse actions," and we hold that such actions

are prohibited until further notice, consistent with the intent of Order No. 2001-1142, as

well as any other adverse actions.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the

Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Wilh

Chairman

Wellow me

ATTEST:

Executive Director

(SEAL)